B. R. MCKENNIE & CO. E. P. McGINTY, EDITOR, H. K. WALKER, ASSISTANT EDITOR.

TERMS -Daily True Whig. Tri-Weekly..... Weekly

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 23, 1855.

Dr Bell on Spiritalism.

The July number of the "American Journal of Insanity" furnishes the subjoined brief abstract of an interesting paper read by Dr. BELL at the meeting of Insane Hospital Superintendants, in Boston. We learn from the Boston Advertiser that it has elicited much inquiry. public and private, in that city. It is, in our judgment, the most philosophical examination of what are called "spiritual phenomena" that we have yet seen; and we accordingly transfer it to our columns-not doubting that many of our readers will follow through his investigations with curious interest and intellectual gratification, a distinguished medical practitioner, whose peculiar professional duties have led him especially to the investigation of mental phenomena in connection with physical organization, and the various modifying influences of surrounding circumstances. It will be recollected that Dr. Bell read at this meeting a paper on "spiritualism," supplementary to one which he presented at the last preceding meeting of the Association, at Washington, of which no report had ever been made, by request of several members. They considered that the whole subject was then too immature, and so much connected in the public mind with the ridiculous, as to make it inexpedient that it should be more than announced generally as among the topics discussed by the Association. As it is understood that these papers will not be published-their basis being much in certain domestic experiences-it is thought best to present a brief summary of the leading facts and conclusions.

Dr. Bell commenced by expressing his surprise last year in finding that at so large a meeting of persons whose lives were spent in investigating the reciprocal influences of mind and body, scarcely a single member had given a moment's attention to a topic directly in their path, which, whether regarded as merely an epidemic mental delusion, or as a new psychological science, was producing such momentous effects upon the world. It was now said to number over two millions of believers, had an extended literature, a talented periodical press in many forms, and had certainly taken fast hold on many minds of soberness and power. He was well aware how easily it was turned to ridicule, and that they saw hospital directors seriously discussing the spiritual phenomena, Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? But if there was any class of men who had duties in this direction, it was those of our specialty .-Our reports contain the record of many cases of insanity said to be produced by it. It was important, whether true or false, or mixed, that its precise depth, length and nature should be studied out.

of noonday. Dr. Bell remarked that on his return home from our meeting at Washington, he had a peculiar wish a reply to verify his previous observations on what are technically known as the physical manifestations of this new science. He could not pretend that he could doubt his repeated personal observations, addressed to his eight, hearing and touch, and seperated, as he believed, from any possibility of error or collusive fraud. Yet the offer by Prof. Henry, of a large sum to any person who would make one of his tables move in the Smithsonian Institution, and the obvious incredulity of many of the "brethren," had induced the desire again to see some full and unequivocal experiment in table

As is well known, mystery always loses its terrific

character when boldly met and opened to the light

An opportunity was not long wanting. On the occasion of the visit of a well known gentleman long connected with the insane, and who never had seen any of these phenomena at the asylum, Dr. Bell invited him to go to a family where a medium of considerable power was visiting. The family was one of the most respectable of the vicinage, the head of it being a gentleman entrusted with millions of dollars of other people's money, as the financial manager of a larger banking institution. He and his wife had for some years been perfectly convinced of the spiritual character of these manifestations. The medium was a young lady of eighteen or twenty, of very slight figure, weighing eighty or ninety pounds, and had discovered herself ta be a medium while on a visit to these distant relatives. A family, from character and position more entirely beyond the suspicion of even winking at any thing like fraud or irregularity, does not exist in the world. They were so fortunate as to find the the medium at home, and the circle was made of the five persons mentioned. The ordinary manifestations of raps, beating of musical tunes, and responses to mental spoken questions, were very completely presented, as well as the movements of the table under the mere contact of fingers' ends. Finding that these things appeared very favorable to a full exhibition of what he wished to see, as evigced by the very facile movements of the table under contact, Dr. Bell proposed trying the grand experimentum crucis of the physical manifestations -the movement of the table without any human contact, direct or indirect. He was permitted to arrange things to suit himself, and began by opening the table more widely, and inserting two moveable table leaves, which increased the length from about six to perhaps nine or ten feet. This he felt also gave him an opportunity to see and upset all wires and mechanism concealed, or at least, to answer positively to their non-existence. The table was a solid structure of black walnut, with six carved legs, the whole of such a weight that when the castors were all in the right line for motion, he could just start it by the full grasp of the thumb d fingers of both hands.

The persons end two, and back from inches. As Dr. Bell is some six feet two inches in ! height to second and he had no difficulty in secing between the table and the persons of all present. The bands were raised over it at about the same

beight of a foot and a bulf. At a request, the table commenced its motion, its motion would have been continuous, if the hands

above it had followed along pari passu. two pariors, and which were open, it rose over an influence, to his convictions. The days of the iron rod on which the door trucks traversed, and matyra were not over, although the days of the which projected half or three quarters of an inch faggot, the cross and the stake might be. When above the level of the carpet. It then entered the Judge Edmonds promptly and decidedly told a po-

allow its free course. At request, for they during this time spoke as if army of matyrs as any church has canonized! At request, for they during this time spoke as it to actual beings, the motion was reversed, and it returned until it again reached the iron rod. Here it convictions that, while the faith in spirits must be wesself a THOMPSON, stuck. The table hove, creaked and struggled, but all in vain; it could not surmount the obstacle .-The medium was then "impressed by the spirits" to write, and seizing a pencil, hastily wrote that if the fore legs were lifted over the bar, they (i. e., the spirits) thought they could push the others over. This was done, and the motion kept on. Once or twice Dr. Bell requested all to withdraw a little was, thus the community, knowing that here were further from the table, "to see how far the infinence would extend." It was found that whenever
a much greater distance, say two feet, was reached,
the movement ceased, and a delay of three or four
those who gave some explanation, even if it was
the movement ceased, and a delay of three or four
those who gave some explanation, even if it was
the movement ceased, and a delay of three or four minutes occurred before it re-commenced, giving one which uprooted all previous forms of religious the idea that, if broken off, a certain reaccumula-tion of force was needful to put it in motion again. tion, who were as much required to examine this tion, who were as much required to examine this The table reached the upper and of the parior, topic as any order of men, except, perhaps, the in store and for sais low by from which it had started, but was left some four clergy, would not be afraid of looking it in the face aug?

expressed the thanks of the company for the very their dignty. complete exhibition with which they had been fa- Dr. Gray inquired if there were any perceptible vored, but remarked that the obligation would be effects produced upon the feelings or health of the enhanced if the "sprits" would move the table mediums by the exercise of this power.

ing more was asked at this session. some five or six times in which he had seen the ta- prolonged, monotonous sessions, with her crowd of ble move without human contact, and all under cir- visitors, whose wonderful recognitions of deceascomstances apparently as free from suspicion as ed aunts, parents, and friends, although very surpristhis just related. He also stated that the Rev. Mr. ing to them, were "thricetold teles" to her. P., a clergyman of extraordinarily sagacious perceptions and mechanical skill, took this same me- that the medium was conscious of what was passing dium to his own house, without previous thought, in the mind of the questioner. where she never before had been, and where his Dr. Bell thought such was not the case. The own table in the presence of his own family alone, mediums all concur (and many of those in private went through the fullest locomotion without human lite, at least, are of the highest worth-and, indeed, touch. Dr. Bell mentioned, that, in his last expe- be believed that many of those who gratified those riment—that just narrated—the entire space moved interested by paid sessions to be no less worthy) in

through was over fifty feet. ratives of long conversations with what purported tions of the mediums, any thing in common. They forty years, in which every question he could de- Judge Edmonds down to the most moderate invise relating to their domestic history and to events | tellectual development. in it, known only to them and him, had been truly Dr. Cutter inquired how Dr. Bell supposed the answered. Some of the subjects put mentally-i. raps to be made. e., without speaking or writing-had half a dozen The Doctor admitted his entire inability to sugcorrect replies, forbidding, of course, completely, gest how, any more than why the magnetic needle on any doctrine of chances, the contingency of ac- should insist upon turning towards the north, incident or coincidence, as such menial questions, per stead of S. S. E. se, negative the explanation of previous knowledge | Dr. Bell remarked that there were a great num-

on the part of the medium. A brief abstract of one of these will give a gen- branches into which these phenomena had run off, eral idea of their character. Dr. Bell had frequent- which he had not time to enter into the consideraly remarked to his "spiritual" friends, that if any tion of. He considered them all as of less intense medium could reproduce the essential particulars of interest than the great question of the veritable a final interview which had occurred between him- existence of the "spirits." The trance speaking, self and a deceased brother, in 1826, he should be the impressions of a visual panoramic order, the almost compelled to admit that it came from his composition of all sorts of prose and poetry, the spirit; because he was sure that he (Dr. Bell) never curious "spirit drawings," and still other manifestahad communicated it to any living being. Hence, tions; of some of them it is very difficult to make an as it never had been known to but two persons, and explanation; others may hereafter be found in the was of so peculiar, well-marked a character, as not class of hysterico nervous excitements, in which to be capable of being confounded by generalities, the individual, without any intention to deceive, is he should hardly be able otherwise to explain it. so wrapped up in an internal flow of fancies as to A few weeks afterwards, what purported to be the lose consciousness of external things; yet the inspirit of that brother, narrated the essential par- tellectual processes go on. ticulars of the interview, the place where, down Still other puenomena may, perhaps, be proved to to the well recollected fact that he was adjusting the be connected with the duality of the brain. It is

ney, when it was held! Bell began to find that, however correct his spirit is produced. When the ear or eye becomes disual conferences were, in most of their responses, located from its fellow, double vision and disturbed the moment a question was put involving a response audition result. One eye may be habitually passive, the truth of which was unknown to him, uniform failure occurred. Sometimes, where he believed and the attention is not called to the images which at the time that his questions were truly answered, it presents, although these images may be all dissubsequent information had shown him that he had | tinctly pictured on the retina, and may, by some been mistaken. He had answers which he believ- association or diseased action, be subsequently ed to be true, when the facts were decidedly other- reproduced. The analogy of the brain to these

distinctly, "face to face," never could read the as one mind could vary from another. Or, again, signature to letters taken from an old file, and un- it is illustrated in not infrequent examples of folded without his having seen the writing. Yet as periodical mania, where, for a period of weeks, or soon as he had cast his eye upon the signature, months, or years the patent lives in a certain state without allowing any one else to see it, it was of moral, intellectual and affective existence perfectpromptly and correctly reproduced by the alpha | ly unlike the other remnant of his life. Were a betical rappings. And again, when he had made new guide or governor know to enter the sensorium a previous arrangement with his family that they and assume the reins, a more completely distinct should do certain things every quarter of an hour set of result cold not be expected. In ebriety the at home-he, of course, not knowing what-while same facts exist. he was to ask the "spirit" what was done at the instant, uniform failure occurred. He proved, too, that the theory of the "spiritualists" to meet such difficulties-viz: that evil or trifling spirits interfered at their end of the telegraph-was not tenable. For the reasons just before and after these gross are so odd and unnatural, as compared with your failures had been eminently and wonderfully accu- own thoughts or manner of speech, as to make it rate, and the "spirits" not only declared that they saw with perfect clearness what was going on at his habitual brain—that is, that part of your brain house, but denied that there had been any inter-

Dr. Bell also gave examples where test questions He related an incident illustrative of his meaninvolving replies unknown to the interrogator had ing. He was once attending a session, or circle, been designedly intermixed with those which were where his possition was at the bottom of a long known. The result uniformly was, that the known table, at the head of which the "medium" sat, and responses, however curious and far remote, were on each side of her were some other persons. All correctly reproduced,—the unknown were a set of had paper and pencils in hand to minute down the perfectly wild and blundering errors, the responses responses, &c. Owing to some "want of harmony" after being obviously formed out of the phraseology or other cause, the "spirits" failed in correct re-

come not only from the questioner, but if in the He certainly had no conciousness of it. mind of any one at the circle, that it might be or less a question of taste. Much of it is elevated, but it was, the rap being made at T. indicating high intellectual and moral capacities in the mind to which it owes its origin. Much more absord, peurile and disgusting, infinitely below the son from whom it professedly comes. Yet the an account last year, spiritual revelation has given us nothing of such tise wich had been put into his hands by an earwhich it was thought would carry conviction to anyfrom his status, must know all about it. The truth ously very easy thing as compared with that just was, that the work was the production of some described. mind, celestial or muudane, ignorant of the very mathematics, and where, of course, the answer for common readers. Nor does Dr. Bell believe, from his observations, that the waters from this to be the case. fountain ever reach a higher level than their source. The most elevated specimen of the spiritual literature would no doubt be found in the communications from Swedenborg and Lord more important, in a practical point of view, than Bacon, in Judg Edreone's and Dr. Dexter's first and and second columns. Yet, whoever reads the wery elegant and powerful preliminary treatise of these gentlemen, which Dr. Bell thought would the bad and avered to give compare favorably with any writings of the kind he had endeavored to give. ever published, would not able to feel that Swenstood on the sides of the table, three | borg and Lord Bacon after their nearly one and

" . I shoir unsuperior spheres, had more than equanepretending amanuenses still "in the vale of tears. Dr. Bell pays a glowing tribute to the character of Judge Elmonds. He did not believe that modern history could furnish an example of a more nowith moderate speed, occasionally halting, and then ble, chivalrous, self sacrificing devotion to what COMMISSION AND FORWARDING MERCHANTS gliding on a toot or two at once. It seemed as if he believes to be the alter of truth than that gentheman evinced. He had not hesitated to sacrifice the loftiest political and professional prospects On reaching the folding doors dividing off the as well as some portion of a well deserved social other parlor, and went its whole length until it came near the pier glass at its end—a centre table nonnee that he must abandon his high judicial of-having been pushed aside by one of the party to fice or suppress his book, that he would be brought at no such price, he stood as noble a one of that promptness and despatch.

given up as being connected with these fects, it was a topic, whether regarded as a physical novelty, or even as a delusion curring deeply into the very re-ligious natures of our people, which was worth our fullest examination. There were great sovel interesting facts here. They had not been treated fairly and respectfully, as they should have been. The effect facts, if human senses could be trusted at all, went

feet from the median line of the room. Dr. Bell from any apprehension of ridicule or of degrading

about four feet at right angles, so that the chairs Dr. Bell replied that his inquiries of them led him would come right for their late occupants. This to suppose that there were no palpable influences was immediately done, and the performance was from this cause. One of the most intelligent and deemed so perfectly full and satisfactory that noth- successful of these, in public practice, Mrs. Hayden, now in England, assured him that she was conscious Dr. Bell was understood to say that this made of no ill effects or feelings, beyond the tedium of Dr. Cutter wished to know if Dr. Bell supposed

declaring that they have no consciousness of any Dr. Bell then passed to the topic of responses to mental and verbal questions, and gave several narto be the spirits of persons dead fer twenty five to run through a wide expansion of intelligence, from

ber of curious facts connected with the various

stirrups of his horse, preparatory to a distant jour- undoubted that that organ is like the ear and eye, each of which is one of two symmetricol duplicates. Pretty early, however, in his investigations, Dr. When both act concurrently, but one class of effects facts is shown in the phenomena of dreaming, when Pursuing this train of inquiry, he found the we do and say and think things which are utterly spirits," while averring that they could see him foreign to our habitual feelings and views, as much

> The phenomena of impressions made upon an organ, and afterwards reproduced in disease, are common in the books.

Dr. Bell admitted that many of the responses made by the purporting "spirits" of your friends difficult to believe that they ever came from your own dividuality.

of the question, as a stuck school boy guesses out plies, and a good deal of confusion and repetition The result of the inquiries of Dr. Bell and his was, "We don't know," "We can't tell," &c. occurred. Often their reply, through the alphabet, friends-for several gentleman of eminently fitting Dr. Bull was amusing bimself, under these delays, in talents pursued the investigation with him-was drawing with his pencil a grotesque figure of an this:-that what, the questioner knows imaginary animal-a sort of griffin, with horns, the spirits know; what the questioner does not know tusks, &c., &c. After one of the replies of the the spirits accontically ignorant of. In other words that there are really no superhuman agencies in the rather pettishly lifted his pencial from the paper and matter at all—no connection with an other state of said, "Well, do you know what this is?" The existence; but that it bears certain strong analogies to some of the experiences of claircoyance, in hard naming that beast!" As he was in a position that mysterious science of animal magnetism, as it where no eye could overlook him, and where no has been proteuding and receding for the last hundred years. Dr. Bell thought there was some rea- he was at a loss to know out of whose brain, exson to believe that the matter reproduced may cept his own, the quick repartee could originate.

Dr. Bell also mentioned other cases where the evolved. He made some observations upon the idea in the questioner's mind was reproduced, but evidences of spirit existence, drawn from the char- in different phraseology from that he held. A acter of the matter communicated by the mediums "spirit," for example, was asked where she had in a state of impression, when, as is believed, spir- been buried. The true answer was, St. Augustine. its express themselves through the buman agent. - The letter S was first rapped; he waited at A, Of course, the quality of such composition is more having no idea that the contraction would be used,

Dr. Nichols inquired whether Dr. Bell had any further experiences and observations in the curious grade of the human productions of the same per-

Dr. Bell replied that he understood that that extraordinary value or novelty as to stamp it, phenomenon of handwriting, where the pencil bein the judgment of unpredjudiced minds as of super gan at the last part of the last letter of the last mundane production. Dr. Bell alluded to a treatise with had been put into his hands by an earnest spiritualist, purporting to the work of Thomas Paine, the author of the Age of Reason, &c., the medium wrote in a reversed manner, so that body, as it purported a be a full explanation of the the writing could be read in a mirror, or by being formation and changes of this earth, by one who held up to the light, back to the reader—an obvi-

Dr. Bell had seen many of the "spirit drawings," first rudiments of chemical philosophy, in which which seemed like incongruous, grotesque specithe most ridiculous blanders were made on every mens of Chinese art-flowers, fruit and leaves being page in matters which are as demonstrable as aggregated against all the precedents of nature or laws of botanical philosophy. They were only cannot be made that the revelation was too high remarkable from being the production of persons unskilled in the use of the pencil, as was declared

berg and Lord Bacon after their nearly one and sugar the sides of the table, three borg and Lord Bacon after their nearly one and sugar more than two centuries' residence, respectively, cured hamily received and for sale by any sure of the refined senses of the sure? WM. IMEDIET. ROST. M'COSSELL. CHAS. C. SMCDLET,

leior Wharf Boat. EXC SMEDLEY, MICONNELL & CO.,

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PROFESSOR of Modera Languages, of nearly forty years experience, twenty of which were passed at the iversities of Moscow and Casan, in Russia, (as Professor of the French language) ten in private nobleman's families on the continent of Europe, and the last eight in this country, six of which in Richmond, Virginia, (where he taught with great success in the first Schools and private families) and two in Kentucky; possessing the highest testimonists of his competency and success in teaching his native tongue, offers his services to Schools and private families; also to His method 250 kgs Shoenberg's nalls; 190 bbls. loaf, po'd & cru'd Sugas young men who wish to form an evening class. His method of teaching (differing from all those in use in this country) was always crowned with great success, and approved of by all those who employed him. Add ess A. F. at Mrs. M. Mil-

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At Thompson's the Stages of Carter, Thomas and other beauer, and by an examination of our stock all will be a call.

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Through Tickets for MEMPHIS WAYNESBORO, JACKSON, TUSCUMBIA, FLORENCE, FULASKI and COLUM
BIA, can be procured at the General Stage Office, under the A. ANDERSON,

REMOVAL. A. C. & A. B. BEECH HAVE removed their stock of Goods to No. 49 College street, where they will be glad to see their friend- and customers. We will be receiving our Fall Stock in a few days. SEGARS! SEGARS!

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ISS JOSEPHINE LANE, at No. 68 Cedar street, will WE, the undersigned, having examined with attention one the part session of her School for Girls and little M open the next session of her School for Girls and little

W the construction and operation of CHILD'S GRAIN

Boys, the 1st MONDAY in September. She hopes the satis
SEPARATOR, and witnessed with surprise and pleasure its action given will insure her an increased patronage.

aug21—td NASHVILLE FEMALE ACADEMY. THE next Academic year will commence September 3d.

Teachers will be in their places during the week previous, to receive and classify pupils One Teacher to every twenty-five pupils. Morning and afternoon sessions, as the health of all chil-

Well ventilated rooms and ample space for healthful exer-Mr. Nichols will have classes in Latin and Greek into which young Ladies, not pupils of the Academy, will be ad-At the same time, the Academy yields, in sound and thor-

ough Scholarship, to no Female School in the country, its motto, "The Lady first, the Scholar next," is never forgotten, in the recitation room, nor on the play ground. Hence parents may rely upon this—the social influence of the Academy will tend only to elevate and refine the sentiments and manners of their daughters. DISSOLUTION.

THE firm of HAMILTON & FULLER has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. E. Fuller will continue the business at the old stand, and settle all business of the JAMES W. HAMILTON, EBEN FULLER. IN retiring from the Book and Shoe Manufactory, in which NEW DRIED APPLES wanted by

I have been engaged for several years, I return my sin cere thanks to the public for their support, and recommend to my friends and the public Mr. Eben Fuller as every way qualified to give satisfaction, and bespeak for him their sup-A LL those indebted to the late firm of Hamilton & Fuller

previous to Jan. 1st, 1855, are earnestly requested to come for ward and settle with me without delay. N. B.-I have on hand a large stock of Boots, Shoes and Brogans, that I am willing to sell as cheap as can now be bought in town. All those in want of a superior article be bought in town. All those in a call.
will find it to their interest to give me a call.
EBEN FULLER.

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Four lessons a week, Monday, Tuesday, thursday .. 25 00 Friday; the succeeding week Tuesday and Thursday.

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35 00 CAVALIER HATS-This very populary Lessons same in number and in days as in the
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to classes of gentlemen on the Violin, Flute,
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No. 23 South side of Public Square. One lesson a week in Sacred Music given to all pupils free SENATE STRAW AND CAMPEA-One lesson a week in Sacred Music given to all pupils free Schey Hats—A fine assortment of these highly No charge will be made for the use of Instruments. Music popular and very desirable SUMMER HAT has just and Music Books furnished gratis to the pupils, who will be been opened at FRANCISCO'S HAY STORE, permitted to retain them as their own property at the ciose Je9

Pupils will be received at any time, and charged from the period they enter to the close of the session. The attendance of pupils will be required during the less on only.

The Academic Year will be divided into two sessions; the one commencing on the last Friday in January, the other commencing on the last Friday in January, the other commencing on the last Friday in January, the other commencing on the last Friday in June.

For Pupils intrusted to their care shall receive close at tention, and if unwearied assiduity on the part of the instructors can avail, they shall not fail to attain the elevated at andard of preficiency to which they may aspire.

Application to be made on or after the 1st day of Septemer, at the Academy.

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Application to be made on or after the 1st day of Septemer, at the Academy.

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25 do Old Bourbon do 50,000 Cigars, assorted; 25 do do Rye do 200 Demijohn, various sizes;

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